

BRIDGE RETROFITS

ST. LOUIS, I-70 NORTH



St. Louis, Missouri

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), District 6

Constructed 2001 – 2002

Project Type: Urban Freeway; Retrofit

PURPOSE

MoDOT had recently completed 10 miles of urban I-70 interstate using a standard design palette that neighboring residents disliked. Particularly when compared to recent context sensitive solutions development and community input in the adjacent section of the New I-70 Mississippi River Bridge. The local neighborhoods and politicians lobbied the federal government for additional highway enhancements. \$5 million in federal funds for the enhancements were provided, which allowed MoDOT to complete the enhancement project in 1 year.

DESCRIPTION



MoDOT recently completed the 10 mile urban corridor paving, riprap, lighting and bridges using standard design, materials and colors. The neighborhood residences and businesses objected to the chain link materials, extensive rip rap and lack of landscaping. Community leaders contacted MoDOT, U.S lawmakers, state representatives and city activists to determine if amenities could be developed to reflect the character of the area.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



MoDOT and the consultant's public involvement staff developed a comprehensive approach of engaging the public in a series of workshops and meetings tied to the city wards, businesses, and individual neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor. Neighborhood focus groups provided key input for mitigating "views to the road." They developed enhancements to the experience of pedestrians by making bridges and underpasses more attractive and safe. They also suggested landscape plantings that would screen views and traffic noise. These workshops allowed the individual Ward Alderman the ability to keep in close contact with project development and provide detailed information on design concepts at the neighborhood level. The Final public meeting presented all the design concepts that were approved by the neighborhoods and businesses.

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS APPROACH

- The design team looked at cost effective methods of providing corridor enhancements to the bridges, underpasses, and landscape edges.
- Public input during Workshops provided ideas related to the uses of material that reflected the character of the neighborhoods.
- Design materials for bridge lighting and landscape were coordinated with the City for maintenance and durability issues.
- Design materials were reviewed and approved by MoDOT maintenance and construction for use in an urban highway corridor.

OUTCOME

To the residents of the corridor this project has proved to be a valuable asset to the community. The inclusion of landscaping at the highway perimeter has improved the views of the corridor and has benefitted the area's appearance. Bridge aesthetic treatments including pedestrian scale lighting, colored pavements, and ornamental iron safety fences have provided a finished product that blends with the environment, reflects the character of St. Louis, and increases safety for pedestrians.

CHALLENGES

- Getting input from the various neighborhoods and wards in order to design an aesthetic treatment that responded to the region's character.
- Developing design documents and having construction completed in nine months.
- Completing construction without affecting the highway use.

FUNDING

State and Federal Transportation Funds
City of St Louis Maintenance Funds
TEA 21 Enhancement Funds

LESSONS LEARNED



- Engage the public early in the design process
- Consider use of color to reduce monochromatic appearance
- Consider the character of the area prior to developing design solutions
- Look for partnerships with city and residents to ease maintenance costs

KEY WORDS

Applicable Project Delivery Stages: Administration, Planning, Design, Construction, Maintenance

Applicable Transportation Professionals: Highway Engineers, Structural Engineers, Landscape Architects, Urban Designers

Applicable Transportation Modes: Highway, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian

Transportation Topics: Visual Quality, Safety, Mobility

WEB LINKS

<http://www.modot.state.mo.us/stlouis>

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